State Board of Equalization

News Release

George Runner, Member

2nd District – Lancaster

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For Immediate Release　　　　　　　　　　**Contact:**　　**Anita Gore**
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California Gasoline Demand Flat, Diesel Declines
Average Price of Diesel in California Jumped 86 Cents in February 2011

Senator George Runner, Second District Member of the California State Board of Equalization (BOE), today released California gasoline and diesel consumption figures for February 2011. California gasoline consumption remained flat, while diesel fuel consumption in California declined.

California's gasoline consumption remained flat in February 2011 with 1.131 billion gallons of gasoline, compared to 1.131 billion gallons in February 2010. In February 2011, the average price of gasoline at the pump in California was up 59 cents to $3.58 a gallon, a 20 percent increase, compared to California's average price of $2.99 per gallon of gasoline in February 2010. The U.S. average price of gasoline in February 2011 was up 56 cents to $3.26 per gallon, a 21 percent increase, compared the U.S. average price of $2.70 per gallon of gasoline in February 2010.

In February 2011, California's diesel consumption totaled 176.5 million gallons, which is 19.1 million gallons less than February 2010 when diesel consumption totaled 195.6 million gallons, a decrease of 9.8 percent. However, the February 2010 figures include an additional 11.3 million gallons of diesel fuel due to an audit assessment of prior monthly reporting periods. If the audit assessment of 11.3 million gallons in February 2010 are excluded from the calculations, diesel consumption still decreased by 4.2 percent in February 2011. California's diesel fuel figures are net consumption that includes the State Board of Equalization's audit assessments, refunds, amended and late tax returns and the California State Controller's Office refunds.

The average price of diesel in California rose 86 cents to $3.80 per gallon in February 2011, a 29 percent increase compared to February 2010's average price of $2.94 per gallon of diesel fuel in California. The U.S. average price for diesel rose 28 percent in February 2011 to $3.58 per gallon, up 79 cents compared to last year in February when the U.S. average price for diesel was $2.79.
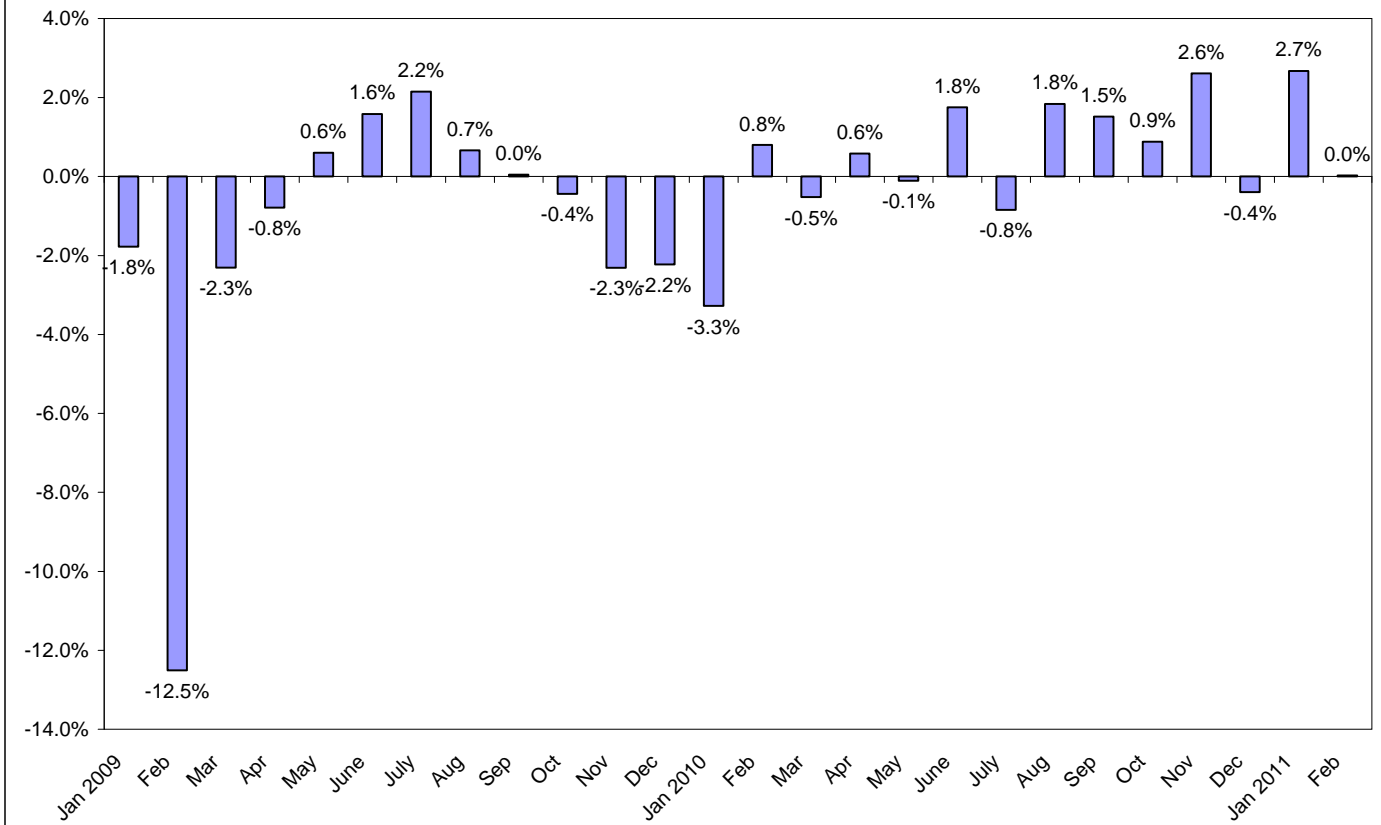
The State Board of Equalization is able to monitor gallons through tax receipts paid by fuel distributors in California. Consumption figures for March 2011 are scheduled to be available at the end of June 2011. All monthly, quarterly, and annual figures can be viewed at: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/spftrpts.htm.

Taxable Gasoline Gallons: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/MVF_10_Year_Report.pdf
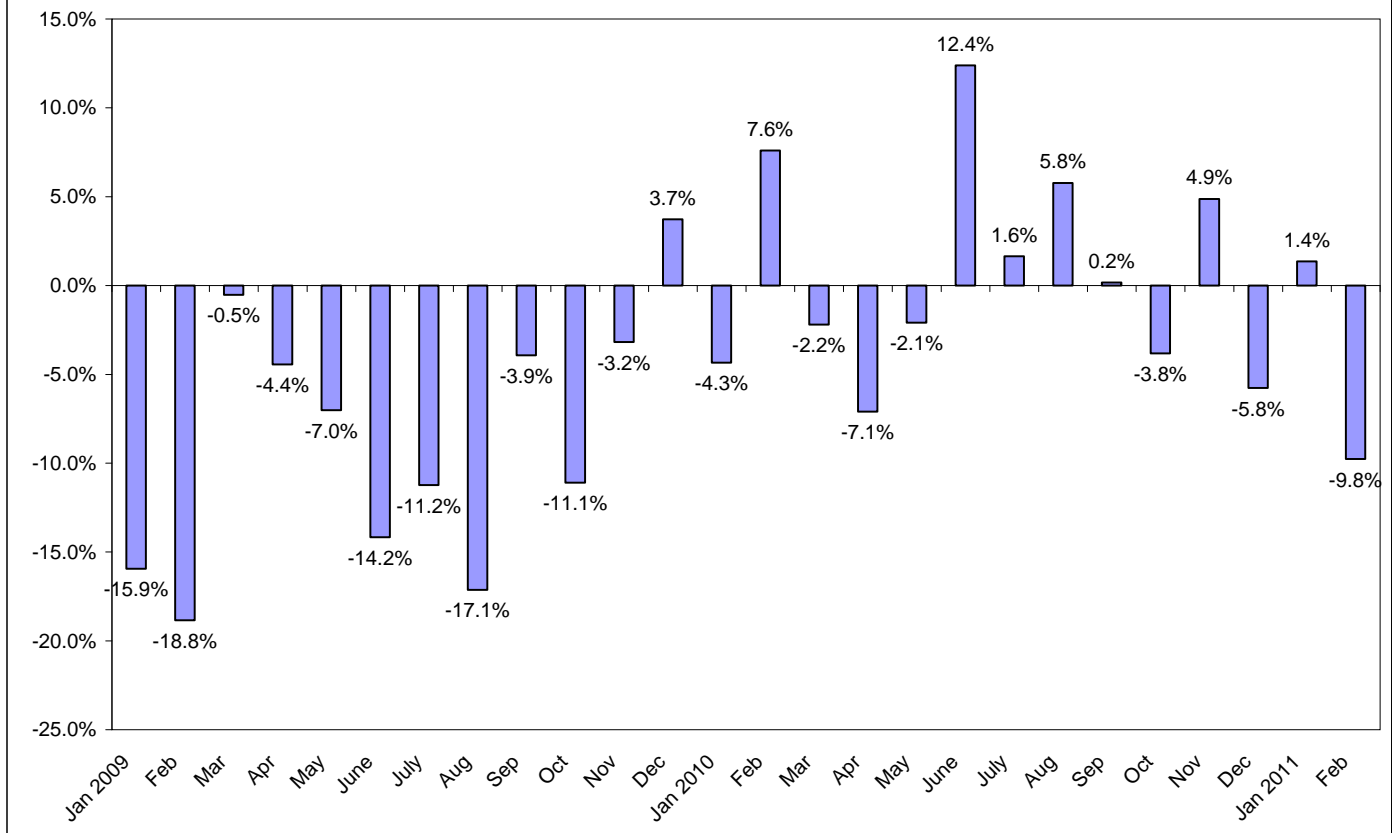
Taxable Diesel Gallons: www.boe.ca.gov/sptaxprog/reports/Diesel_10_Year_Report.pdf

Editor's note – The two charts below show monthly percentage change in California gasoline and diesel gallons consumption compared to 12 months prior from January 2009 through February 2011.

Percent Change in Gas Consumption Compared to 12 Months Prior
From January 2009 Through February 2011

Month	Percent Change
Jan 2009	-1.8%
Feb	-12.5%
Mar	-2.3%
Apr	-0.8%
May	0.6%
June	1.6%
July	2.2%
Aug	0.7%
Sep	0.0%
Oct	-0.4%
Nov	-2.3%
Dec	-2.2%
Jan 2010	-3.3%
Feb	0.8%
Mar	-0.5%
Apr	0.6%
May	-0.1%
June	1.8%
July	-0.8%
Aug	1.8%
Sep	1.5%
Oct	0.9%
Nov	2.6%
Dec	-0.4%
Jan 2011	2.7%
Feb	0.0%

Percent Change in Diesel Gallons Compared to 12 Months Prior
From January 2009 Through February 2011

Month	Percent Change
Jan 2009	-15.9%
Feb	-18.8%
Mar	-0.5%
Apr	-4.4%
May	-7.0%
June	-14.2%
July	-11.2%
Aug	-17.1%
Sep	-3.9%
Oct	-11.1%
Nov	-3.2%
Dec	3.7%
Jan 2010	-4.3%
Feb	7.6%
Mar	-2.2%
Apr	-7.1%
May	-2.1%
June	12.4%
July	1.6%
Aug	5.8%
Sep	0.2%
Oct	-3.8%
Nov	4.9%
Dec	-5.8%
Jan 2011	1.4%
Feb	-9.8%

Elected in November 2010, taxpayer advocate George Runner represents the Second District of the Board of Equalization. Runner was sworn in as Second District Board Member on January 3, 2011. Prior to his election to the Board, Runner served twelve years in the State Legislature. As a thoughtful conservative, his legislative priorities included improving the economy, business growth, education excellence, and public safety for all Californians. As a member of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee, Runner consistently led the fight against tax increases and supported tax relief for families and businesses.

The five-member California State Board of Equalization (BOE) is a publicly elected tax board. The BOE collects more than $48 billion annually in taxes and fees supporting state and local government services. It hears business tax appeals, acts as the appellate body for franchise and personal income tax appeals, and serves a significant role in the assessment and administration of property taxes. For more information on other taxes and fees in California, visit www.taxes.ca.gov.

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